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PHOTO BY MC3 WILLIAM PHILLIPS

William Ortega-Ortiz, Naval Support Activity Bethesda installation energy manager, far right, gives a tour to Federal Energy Management Program interns June 30 pointing out the installation's award-winning energy and water conservation programs.

NSAB Exhibits Award-Winning Energy Efficiency

By MC3 WILLIAM PHILLIPS

NSAB Public Affairs staff writer

Naval Support Activity Bethesda (NSAB) hosted interns from the Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) June 30.

The interns toured various NSAB locations to observe NSAB's award-winning energy and water conservation programs firsthand.

"NSAB was asked to host [the event] based on the accolades that we've actually achieved here on the installation," said William Ortega-Ortiz, NSAB's installation energy manager.

The Department of Defense (DoD) has made energy conservation a crucial mission.

"Sustainable energy and the intelligent use of our resources has a broad importance across all of the

DoD and federal programs," said Luke Armstrong, NSAB's community planning liaison officer. "Wherever we can recognize savings, as energy costs continue to climb, we can make better use of taxpayer dollars. In order to do that we need to get young people engaged in the energy program and explain to them the importance of managing programs such as this."

Having the FEMP interns aboard NSAB was a way to display how NSAB has spearheaded energy and water conservation for federal and military installations.

"One reason the event is important is because in the Navy we are incredibly aggressive and advanced in how we go after energy and water conservation measures," said Ortega-Ortiz. "FEMP has been a stout advocate of our

installation based our relationship with them, and this seemed like an opportunity for us to not just give back to FEMP by allowing them to see what we do here day-to-day, but also helping them educate their personnel on what we do here as well."

Many veterans enter the workforce with job skills that they have learned in the military.

"It is extremely important to have active engagement at an early level," said Armstrong. "Especially with veterans, who may have backgrounds in nuclear engineering, electrical engineering and mechanical engineering. They would blend nicely with energy programs when you are talking about boiler plants being upgraded or when you are talking about HVAC systems being better-maintained."

Inviting FEMP interns to see an energy-efficient installation is a way to ensure an efficient energy future, as well.

"This is absolutely to pass on the torch to the new energy managers coming up through the ranks," said Ortega-Ortiz of the event. "It helps the new generation of energy managers moving forward. As interns they are going to visit other places that deal with renewable energy like the White House and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. It is a great honor to have them here at NSAB to see what the military is doing with renewable energy and what the Navy specifically is doing to integrate technologies in order to conduct a robust program here. It helps shape their image of what to expect in the future."

US Naval Academy Inducts Class of 2020

By MC3 BRIANNA JONES

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (NNS) — The U.S. Naval Academy welcomed the 1,184 men and women of the incoming Class of 2020 in Annapolis June 30 during Induction Day.

Induction Day--or I-Day--marks the beginning of a demanding six-week indoctrination period called Plebe Summer, during which civilian students are indoctrinated into military life.

This indoctrination period is meant to help plebes develop discipline, honor, self-reliance and organization. These attributes will provide them with the foundation they will need to be successful midshipmen and throughout their military careers.

"Today is a really special day for these guys and girls," said Midshipman 1st Class Ryan Bailey, one of the Plebe Summer detailers who will be training the plebes. "We've all been through it so being on the other side now, it's pretty cool to experience it again from a different viewpoint."

The new class includes 853 men and 331 women — making up 28 percent of the incoming students. This is the largest number of women to be inducted into the Naval Academy in the 40 years since women were first admitted.

Among the new plebes are 17 international students from 13 countries: Bulgaria, Cameroon, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Korea, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia, Philippines, Peru, Poland, Singapore and Tunisia.

Seventy-five of the incoming plebes are prior enlisted personnel, 66 from the Navy and 9 from the Marine Corps.

On I-Day, the new plebes receive uniforms and military haircuts, undergo medical evaluations, learn to render a salute and complete their registration.

Each plebe receives a copy of "Reef Points," a 225-page handbook of information about the U.S. Navy



PHOTO BY MC2 JONATHAN LEWIS CORREA

Incoming plebes from the U.S. Naval Academy class of 2020 carry laundry bags to Bancroft hall during induction day 2016. The new class includes 853 men and 331 women.

and Marine Corps, the Naval Academy's history and traditions, their administrative chain of command, and the general orders of a sentry. The new midshipmen are required to memorize approximately 1,000 facts outlined in the book.

I-Day concludes when the midshipmen take the Oath of Office in front of their family, friends and new classmates during a ceremony in Tecumseh Court. After the ceremony, plebes say goodbye to their families who will not see them again until Plebe Parents Weekend, Aug. 11-14.

With the conclusion of I-Day, Plebe Summer officially begins. During this time, plebes start each day at dawn with mandatory physical training. The remainder of each day is packed with drills and instruction on the military

lifestyle and more physical training. The plebes are allotted minimal leisure time.

During these six weeks, the plebes are led and trained by upper-class midshipmen. Instruction includes seamanship, boat handling, navigation and small arms training.

"During plebe summer, these young men and women will be challenged morally, mentally and physically," said Naval Academy Superintendent Vice Adm. Ted Carter during a presentation to the plebe parents. "It will not be easy, but Plebe Summer applies pressure with a purpose."

The strict atmosphere instills a drive in the students to excel both in and out of the classroom.

"We recognize the talent that is in your sons and daughters," said Carter, addressing the parents of the incoming plebes. "They could have gone to Ivy League schools or any other service academy. They had choices and they chose to join the U.S. Navy."

Carter said that the outstanding cumulative SAT scores, athletic prowess and diversity of extracurricular activities of the class of 2020 were some of the best he had ever seen and told the parents they should be proud as they watch their sons, daughters and family members depart for their four-year adventure at the Naval Academy.

"His freshman year of high school, he told me he wanted to be a Marine and attend the academy, this is truly his dream," said Anne Pastrana, mother of an incoming plebe. "As a mother I couldn't be more proud to see my son living out his dream."

The incoming plebes that comprise the class of 2020 represent some of the brightest youth in the country and will one day become part of the less than one percent of the population who volunteer to serve their country, said Carter.

Bethesda Notebook

Inaugural Heimall's Cup

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center holds its inaugural Heimall's Cup competition July 22 beginning at 9 a.m. Volunteers are needed for set up and other duties, and the volunteer registration deadline is July 8. Registration deadline for participants is July 15. Events will include three-on-three basketball, seven vs. seven flag football, six vs. six soccer, four-man relay, wheel barrel race, sack race, three-legged race, dead hang (pull-up bar), sit-up and push-up challenges, tug of war and dunk tank. Burgers, hot dogs and beverages will be provided to all who attend. For more information, contact HMC Jameson at Calisha.m.jameson.mil@mail.mil, or HM2 Redor at Rodney.t.redor.mil@mail.mil. Interested volunteers can contact Sgt. Keum at Andrew.j.keum.mil@mail.mil. Event and team questions should be directed to CS1 Willis at daniel.l.willis.mil@mail.mil.

Pre-retirement Seminar

A pre-retirement seminar is scheduled for July 26-27 at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. The seminar is open to WRNMMC GS employees planning to retire within the next five years. Space is limited. Pre-registration is required. For more information, call Lisa Wilson at 301-319-8510.

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WRNMMC Joins Cancer Moonshot Effort

'Seizing the Moment, Accelerating Efforts, Pushing the Boundaries' to Find Cures

By **BERNARD S. LITTLE**
WRNMMC Public Affairs staff writer

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center participated in the White House-sponsored national Cancer Moonshot Summit June 29, organized to boost support for speeding up efforts for cancer research, treatment and cures.

President Barack Obama launched the Cancer Moonshot initiative earlier this year to find a cure for cancer within the next decade. The initiative is modeled after President John F. Kennedy's national goal of "landing a man on the moon and returning him safely back to Earth by the end of the 1960s," which Kennedy proposed to Congress on May 25, 1961.

Obama appointed Vice President Joe Biden to lead the Cancer Moonshot effort.

At WRNMMC in the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) auditorium June 29, approximately 100 physicians, nurses, researchers, cancer patients, family members, philanthropists and others were on hand to hear a video telecast of Biden's remarks at the Cancer Moonshot Summit. The vice president spoke at Howard University in Washington, D.C., another of the more than 270 event sites that participated in the summit.



PHOTOS BY JOE NIEVES

Workgroups discuss issues pertaining to cancer research, treatment and cures during the White House-sponsored national Cancer Moonshot Summit on June 29 at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Nationally, more than 270 sites participated in the event.

"Today, we're discussing what you can do in your community to help double the rate of progress to end cancer as we know it," said Biden, whose son Beau died of brain cancer last year at WRNMMC. Calling cancer "a complicated disease," the vice president said there are more than 200 distinct types of cancer that have been identified.

"There are 14 million new [cancer] cases a year in the world, [and] 8.2 million cancer-related deaths worldwide per year," the vice president continued. "The projections are that by 2025, if we stay on the exact course we

are now and making the progress we are now, there will be 20 million new cases a year and 11.4 million deaths from cancer alone," he added.

Among others, Biden praised the WRNMMC staff for increasing his knowledge of cancer during his son's illness and hospitalization at WRNMMC. The vice president explained the Cancer Moonshot initiative grew out of his acquisition of knowledge about the disease.

Biden said the Cancer Moonshot is about collaboration on all fronts to end cancer. "I believe we can do in the next five years what would ordinarily

take 10. We're not done after today; this is just the start of the work we need to conduct. Everyone has to play a role [and] each one of you can make a difference. The goal of the Moonshot is to seize this moment, accelerate our efforts and literally push the boundaries of what is possible," the vice president said.

Following heart disease, cancer is the No. 2 killer in the U.S., claiming nearly 600,000 lives per year, according to 2015 figures from the National Center for Health Statistics. The American Cancer Society reports approximately 1.7 million Americans are diagnosed with some form of cancer annually.

Before breaking out into workgroups to brainstorm ideas for tackling challenges posed by cancer, such as prevention, detection, diagnosis, data sharing, enhancing care and access, as well as advancing research, discovery and scientific breakthroughs, participants at the WRNMMC Cancer Moonshot event heard from Army Capt. Joshua Minton, a WRNMMC cancer patient.

Minton, a West Point graduate, said he's "really looking forward to seeing how the [Cancer Moonshot] works in the next five years."

"I'm just one story, one patient," Minton continued. "There's been so many others out there who could be up here right now ... so for me to be up here speaking on their behalf is a very humbling experience," said the

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Giving the Gift of Life

Blood, Platelet Donations Needed Year-Round

By **BERNARD S. LITTLE**
WRNMMC Public Affairs staff writer

As Chief Petty Officer Roy Jaquez walked through the mezzanine level of Bldg. 9 at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center with his family, the Sailor noticed personnel from the Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP) hosting a blood drive. He decided to stop to donate "the gift of life."

"I walked by and they had it set up," Jaquez said with a laugh in explaining his simple reason for donating. His young son proudly watched his father donate.

During the two-day blood drive at WRNMMC June 29-30, ASBP staff serviced 90 donors and collected more than 60 units according to Shawntel Trowell, public affairs specialist/blood donor recruiter for the Armed Services Blood Bank Center-National Capital Region/ASBP at WRNMMC.

"It is extremely important for people to donate



PHOTO BY BERNARD S. LITTLE

Chief Petty Officer Roy Jaquez donates blood June 29 during a two-day Armed Services Blood Program blood drive at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

because there is no substitute for human blood, and it is only good for 35 to 42 days after collection," Trowell explained. "Platelets have to be used within

five days after collection. Also, every day brings advances in lifesaving techniques, many of which require blood or blood products," she continued.

"It is also important to donate with the ASBP because our mission is the troops, their families and veterans. We serve those who serve," Trowell said.

The summer can pose an additional challenge for blood and platelet donations because of vacations and other seasonal activities which can keep people busy, donor center officials explained. They remind regular and potential donors the need for lifesaving blood and platelet donations is constant to maintain a sufficient supply for patients.

Trowell added there are two ASBP donor centers in the area. In addition to the WRNMMC donor center, there is one at the Pentagon. Those interested in hosting a blood drive can call Trowell at 240-271-8108, or Donna Onwona at 202-294-6674.

"We are the official blood program of the U.S. military," Trowell stated. For more information, visit the ASBP site at www.militaryblood.dod.mil.

WRNMMC Nurse Plays With Armed Forces Women's Soccer Team

Olivia Peduzzi has always been a soccer star.

Starting at the age of 4, Peduzzi started kicking the black and white ball up and down the field in her hometown of Irwin, Pa., just southeast of Pittsburgh.

Before graduating from Penn-Trafford High School, the 5'2" forward had already secured a scholarship to play for the West Virginia Wesleyan College women's soccer team. Peduzzi excelled at the small private college where she started in 12 games as freshman, and played all four years of her college career there.

But early on, this petite soccer star realized that there was more to life than soccer.

Coming from a family of Marines, she had dreamed of serving in the military since she was a little girl. "My father, grandfather, uncles and cousin served in the Marine Corps. When it came time to pick a branch, my father and grandfather led me toward the Navy," expanded Peduzzi.

So, as a freshman in college, she started the Navy Nurse Candidate Program application process. Upon graduating in May 2015, Peduzzi's grandfather pinned on her gold ensign bar. That summer, the Pennsylvania-native played a lot of pick-up soccer before reporting to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) in September 2015.

At WRNMMC, she was assigned to 4 East, where she completed her Clinical Nurse Transition Program by April 2016.



COURTESY PHOTO

Navy Ensign Olivia Peduzzi (front row, fourth from right), a nurse at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, played with the U.S. Armed Forces Women's Soccer Team this year during the Conseil International du Sport Militaire, also known as the World Military Games, last month.

"I enjoy taking care of retired military members as well as active duty," explained Peduzzi. "It is a true honor to help heal those who have sacrificed so much for our country. I am inspired daily by all my patients and learn something new from them every day!"

But her competitive nature had her striving to get back on the field. "I didn't think I would have the opportunity to play at a high quality competitive level again," she said.

While at WRNMMC, Peduzzi learned of the Armed Forces Women's Soccer Team when she walked into a patient's room who randomly asked what sport she played. "When I told her soccer, she told me about the team. When I left work that day, I Googled it and

started working on the application."

Peduzzi then received an acceptance letter to try out for the team. She would be competing against 33 other female service members for one of the coveted spots on the roster.

The young ensign had only worked a single shift at WRNMMC, before she departed for the first rounds of tryouts in Florida, according to Army Capt. Melonie Rich, deputy director for the Clinical Nurse Transition Program at WRNMMC. After three rounds of cuts, Peduzzi made the final 17-player roster.

The team trained until late May, when they left for France to compete in the Conseil International du Sport Militaire (CISM), also known as the World Military Games.

Peduzzi and her teammates challenged other military teams from countries including Canada, Germany, South Korea and Brazil. After four matches, their CISM participation ended with their first win over Canada and a seventh-place finish. It was a disappointing, yet not fully unexpected finish in the field of eight teams, the ensign said. She explained that many of the teams play together year-round, while others 'ringered-up' with former Olympic medalists or even contracted players.

Despite their finish, the team scored the most goals in the history of the Armed Forces Women's Soccer Team.

Peduzzi said the opportunity to play the sport she loves while representing the United States, "...was an experience of lifetime, something I will never forget.

"There are so many more opportunities in the military than you think, and I'm excited to explore more of them," she added.

Peduzzi returned to WRNMMC earlier this month, and now serves as a medical surgical nurse with her goal of becoming an obstetrics nurse.

When asked to compare her soccer team with her nursing team, Peduzzi explained, "I use what I have learned in soccer in my everyday life. I am a firm believer in teamwork and that everything works better when everyone uses a team effort. When you have a good nursing team, it doesn't matter the patient load you have, you always know you will have a good day."

Speed Clinic Looks to Improve Runners' Time

By ANDREW DAMSTEDT
NSAB Public Affairs staff writer

The four runners on Naval Support Activity Bethesda's (NSAB) MWR Sports Complex track were being timed as they sprinted.

"Ten more seconds!" Shlomo Fishman, a personal trainer at NSAB's Fitness Center, shouted to the runners.

After the time was up, they had a rest period and Fishman started his stopwatch for 60 seconds and had them start running fast again.

The four runners are part of a newly formed speed development clinic on NSAB. The program's goal is to help people improve their running times. The interval workouts are intended to help them improve their times in the mile and 2-mile runs.

"The speed development clinic is for someone who is running a 24-minute 5K or an 18- or 16-minute 5K," Fishman said. "The workouts allow you to work out at your level. We work at your level and we're focused on time, not distance. So it really enables the individual to give it all they've got for those 30 seconds."

The genesis for the running club was Fishman's

stated desire to help those who hadn't passed the run portion of the physical fitness test.

"We want them to pass the (physical fitness) test," Fishman said. "We want them to be strong."

He said anyone can join the run club at any point. They meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays either at the Bldg. 17 atrium or at the track.

"There's no start date, there's no end date," he said. "We want you to move better. We want you to be active."

Fishman said people can get caught up in the latest technology and use it as an excuse not to go running, but he said, "you just need a stopwatch, a pair of running shoes and a little heart to give it all you've got."

Fishman began running in high school and since then he runs a few marathons per year as well as several half marathons. His first marathon was the Philadelphia marathon in 2012.

"I just went out and ran," Fishman said. "I just



started my stopwatch and I didn't stop running for two hours ... I was just running. I just enjoyed it."

Fishman grew up near West Point Military Academy and has worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs, but said he wanted to work with active duty military.

"I really enjoy serving those who serve – being one who hasn't served, it really gives me an appreciation for what people put

themselves through on a daily basis," Fishman said. "In my mind there's no excuses for anybody — people here are double amputees, working out, giving it all they've got. Working hard, running, and lifting. There's really no excuse for anybody to say, 'No, I can't do that.'"

Anyone with base access is welcome to join the clinic. For more information, contact the NSAB Fitness Center at 301-295-0031 or email nsabrunclub@gmail.com.

USU Students Learn Public Health, Zombie Style

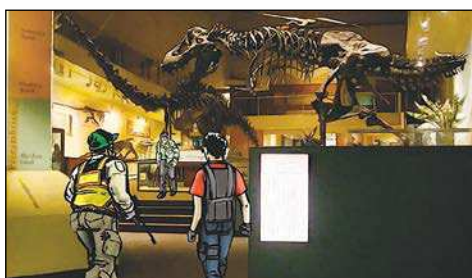
By **SARAH MARSHALL**
USU Media Affairs Officer

A course at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) is teaching students global health care delivery in a unique way that's sure to be a "thriller."

Students in USU's family nurse practitioner Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) program must take a Population Health course as part of their degree requirements. This online class outlines key principles in responding to and understanding population health – the overall health of a group, be it a group of employees, a community, or entire nation. Students must apply what they learn about theories and models of public health care through debate, small group work and a series of creative scenarios – including a zombie pandemic.

"We use the narrative device of a zombie pandemic in animations and assignment to help engage students in content," explained Catherine Ling, assistant professor and family nurse practitioner for the DNP and PhD programs, in USU's Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing.

The students watch video clips of scenarios, including one of the nation's "President" delivering a brief "State of the Zombie Pandemic" address. They



USU COURTESY IMAGE

A zombie scenario is used as part of an online Population Health course at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. The course is part of degree requirements in USU's family nurse practitioner Doctorate of Nursing Practice program.

see the impact that a fictitious zombie virus has made on a population, the fear it's created – along with "anti-zombie" posters strewn all over cities. These scenarios reinforce teaching materials regarding various tools that shape population health planning and interventions.

The zombie coursework keeps the material interesting, Ling said, and the underlying zombie "theme," throughout each lesson in the module makes it more cohesive. In turn, narrative cohesion makes it easier to remember the material and, therefore, easier to apply should there ever be a real-life

population health emergency.

As part of a fictitious Department of Defense division, "HHIT," the students draw on what they've learned throughout the course to enact a quarantine, administer widespread vaccines and obtain international resources, Ling explained. Meanwhile, she added, they must remember to follow actual DoD guidelines when responding to the "growing zombie pandemic."

The purpose of the course is to provide a working understanding of essential competencies in population health. This skill set is critical in an era of increasing antibiotic resistance, emerging infectious diseases and pandemics like Ebola and Zika.

Ling said she's always looking for ways to keep students engaged by keeping the material relevant and interesting. Adult learning can be enjoyable as well. Those who aren't into zombies don't have to watch the videos – they can read the storyline instead. Students have consistently had positive feedback, Ling said, commenting this is "the best online class" they've taken.

A student in the DNP/FNP who has taken the course, Air Force Capt. Marcie Hart, echoed those sentiments. As a big fan of the TV show "The Walking Dead,"

Hart said she was very excited when Dr. Ling mentioned the course would involve a "zombie apocalypse-type scenario."

"The videos are very tastefully done," Hart said. "The 'infected' can be cured later in the scenario, so the characters are not using deadly force, and it is not overtly violent." Hart added the videos are suspenseful, and exciting. They take somewhat bland, abstract information and make it interesting and concrete. "I thought it was a wonderful, fun twist to this course," Hart said.

While the course is interesting, it also allows the students to use "the other side of their brain," Ling noted. It gives them a chance to think creatively – and that certainly enhances their problem-solving and critical thinking skills, she said. The online course is also necessary, as a third of the students travel on a temporary duty assignment during the semester.

Ling continues focusing on student engagement, looking for ways to make course work interesting and thought-provoking. So far, her imaginative efforts have earned her the Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award for 2015. The award recognizes educators from institutions around the world for their excellence in teaching and learning.

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PHOTO BY MC3 TAYLOR DIMARTINO

Master Chief Alma Robinson leads in cutting the cake for the celebration of the 118th Hospital Corpsman and Medic Ball June 18 in Bethesda.



PHOTO BY MC3 TAYLOR DIMARTINO

Sailors honor missing loved ones and comrades-in-arms during the 118th Hospital Corpsman and Medic Ball June 18 in Bethesda.

Medical Center Salutes Service of U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman

By **BERNARD S. LITTLE**

WRNMMC Public Affairs staff writer

Sailors from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center hosted the National Capital Region's 118th Hospital Corpsman and Medic Birthday Ball June 18 in Bethesda. Service members from all branches attended the event to celebrate the anniversary of the largest and most decorated rate in the U.S. Navy.

Congress passed a bill authorizing establishment of the U.S. Navy Hospital Corps, signed into law by President William McKinley on June 17, 1898. Three rates were created therein—hospital apprentice, hospital apprentice first class (a petty officer third class) and hospital steward, which was a chief petty officer.

Since then, the Hospital Corps has grown from the first 25 apothecaries to the more than 30,000 corpsmen delivering care and other services worldwide.

Twenty-two corpsmen have received Medals of Honor. Additionally, 20 naval ships have been named in honor of corpsmen worldwide. Also, 178 corpsmen have been awarded the Navy Cross, 31 Navy Distinguished Service Medals, 946 Silver Stars and 1,582 Bronze Star Medals with Combat "V" device for heroism.

Throughout their history, hospital corpsmen have been called loblolly boy, nurse, bayman, surgeon steward, apothecary and even "Doc" while serving in a variety of billets and providing care to sick, ill or injured service men and women. They serve at shore

establishments as well as in harm's way at sea or downrange. Hospital corpsmen are frequently the only medical caregivers available in many fleet or Marine units on extended deployment. In addition, hospital corpsmen perform duties as assistants in the prevention and treatment of disease and injury while aiding physicians and nurses in the care of service members and their families.

In his message to the Corps, Hospital Corps Force Master Chief Terry J. Prince, the former command master chief at WRNMMC, said, "Thank you for everything you have done, what you currently do and all your future efforts in order to provide the best care to our Nation's sons and daughters. It is an honor to represent you as the force and I look forward to even greater things in the years to come. Happy 118th birthday Hospital Corps."

During the June 18 ball hosted by WRNMMC, hospital corpsmen in attendance recited the Hospital Corpsman Pledge, vowing to "practice faithfully all of [their] duties as a member of the Hospital Corps, [while holding] the care of the sick and injured to be a privilege and a sacred trust."

For more information about the Navy Hospital Corpsman, visit the website <https://www.navycs.com/navy-jobs/hospital-corpsman.html>, <http://www.navy.mil>, <http://www.facebook.com/usnavy>, or <http://www.twitter.com/usnavy>.

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CANCER

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29-year-old Army captain.

Diagnosed with neuroendocrine cancer two years ago, Minton explained it's a very rare form of cancer. "There are not a lot of answers out there," he added.

The Soldier went through 48 weeks of chemo before being asked to participate in a clinical trial at WRNMMC. "There are no side effects [from the clinical trials]. They've had great results with it. I'm

not in the best physical condition I've ever been in, but I'm working at it. Give me a few more months and we'll be there," he said with a smile.

Minton commended the goals for the Cancer Moonshot. "We're working on making progress and breakthroughs. We're close in a few ways. There've been major breakthroughs since I've been [at WRNMMC] the last two years, especially with the clinical trial, and not just with me."

The Soldier said he's been inspired by seeing other cancer patients and the results of their care at WRNMMC. He also stressed the importance of including input from patients and their families in the decision-making process and for ideas at Cancer Moonshot.

Army Col. (Dr.) Jeremy Perkins, chief of Hematology/Oncology and deputy director of the John P. Murtha Cancer Center at WRNMMC, the only Department of Defense Cancer Center of Excellence within the Military Health System, facilitated activities for Cancer Moonshot at the medical center. He explained the summit allowed participants to "generate ideas about how individuals and organizations could better engage in the national effort and submit recommendations for new opportunities for collaborations and action, break down silos and determine how to get more engagement from all partners involved [in the battle against cancer]." He explained the pillars of the Murtha Cancer Center — expertise, healing, discovery and hope and caring — are in line with the Cancer Moonshot objectives.



PHOTO BY BERNARD S. LITTLE

Army Capt. Joshua Minton, a cancer patient at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, was a guest speaker at WRNMMC June 29 during the White House-sponsored national Cancer Moonshot Summit.

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